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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296
INFO RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4192
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9265
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2178
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 3598
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9211
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000424

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICIZES FOREIGN REACTION TO
ELECTIONS

REF: KATHMANDU 409

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty, reasons 1.4 (b/d)

GOVERNMENT LASHES OUT AT FOREIGN CRITICISM OF MUNICIPAL POLLS

¶1. (U) In response to widespread international condemnation of the February 8 municipal polls, the Foreign Ministry issued a press release on February 10, requesting foreign powers to refrain from making "insolent comments" on matters that fall within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign country. The statement said that His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) found statements made by a "few" countries "totally objectionable and unacceptable." Further, the FM noted that demanding democracy and criticizing the polls was "a paradox in itself." The statement called the elections a success and sarcastically requested that the "government would be grateful to be enlightened if there is a substitute for elections in a democracy."

COMMENT

¶2. (C) The press laughed at the Foreign Ministry's reaction to press statements by the U.S., India, Japan, U.K., and the EU. As the King viewed the municipal polls as a necessary step in his plan to restore democracy, the statement from the Foreign Ministry likely reflects a desire to curry favor with the Palace.

MORIARTY